



Town of *Westford* Massachusetts

Town Manager's Newsletter

August 2021



Jodi Ross,
Town
Manager

jross@westfordma.gov
www.westfordma.gov/tm

Important:
Please sign up to
receive updates on the
latest road construction
in town.

[Subscribe to
Notifications](#)



**September 11th
Remembrance
Saturday, September 11
9:55 AM at the
Town Hall Public Safety
Courtyard**

**Town-wide Litter
Cleanup Event on
Saturday, September 18
[National Cleanup Day -
Westford!](#)**

**Special Town Meeting
October 18, 7 PM**



Watch
Meetings Online
westford CAT
community access television
www.westfordcat.org

Dear Westford residents,

On Saturday, September 11th, at 9:55 AM at the 9/11 Memorial in the Public Safety Courtyard located at 53 Main Street, the town will hold our annual September 11th memorial service commemorating the 20th anniversary of the horrific attacks which occurred on September 11th, 2001. The town will honor the 2,977 men, women, and children who lost their lives in the tragic attacks at the World Trade Center, Pentagon, and aboard Flight 93. We hope you can join us for this meaningful memorial service.

The J.V. Fletcher Library is pleased to exhibit "The 9/11 Peace Cranes", an art exhibit of 2,977 origami peace cranes to honor every civilian, firefighter and police responder killed on September 11th to mark the 20th anniversary of the attacks. Created by Westford resident Heather Monahan, the cranes will be on display above the rear library entrance for the month of September. A public (outdoor) opening for the exhibit will be held on Saturday, September 11th at 11:00 AM at the library's rear entrance, following the aforementioned ceremony.

As Covid-19 cases have increased due to the Delta variant, the Board of Health, at their last meeting on August 9th, discussed their concern of how easily the virus can be spread when residents and board members attend public meetings. It was voted unanimously by the board to require all board/committee members, town staff and meeting attendees to wear a mask at all public meetings inside town buildings, whether or not they are vaccinated.

Assistant Town Manager Heideman, working collaboratively with our Technology Department, updated the Select Board on the availability of hybrid public meeting options. They have successfully updated the equipment in the Town Hall meeting room to allow this option. Town Staff are currently working to set up the Millennium School Meeting Room to host hybrid public meetings as well.

Interim Water Superintendent, Mark Warren provided the Select Board with an update in regard to recent perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substance (PFAS) sampling results. PFAS are synthetic chemicals which have been used in manufacturing certain consumer products. The Water Department identified elevated levels in the drinking water during quarterly routine monitoring at the Forge Village Water Treatment Plant. Despite the increase in levels, a maximum contaminant level violation has not occurred. The Water Department will work closely with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and Westford Health Department to identify the source and determine and implement any appropriate mitigations. For more detailed information, please click the following link: [Recent PFAS Sampling Results for the Westford Water Department](#). If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Water Department at (978) 692-5529.

The Select Board is interested in forming a new committee, "Committee to Study Ways to Increase Attendance at Town Meeting". Their charge by the Select Board is as follows: "the Committee shall investigate, research, advise and recommend to the Select Board what actions the Town can take to encourage attendance and to increase participation at Town Meeting, including but not limited to consideration of the date/time of Town Meeting, what services the Town might offer, and educational, technological and outreach activities the Town could undertake". Residents who are interested in joining this new committee may fill out a Citizen Activity Form at the following link: [Citizen Activity Form Application](#) by Friday, September 10th and the Select Board will consider appointment at their meeting on September 14th.

(Continued on next page)

WWW.WESTFORDMA.GOV

Our Special Town Meeting is scheduled for 7pm on October 18th, 2021 in the Abbot School Gymnasium. At the Select Board's meeting on September 14th, the board will review proposed warrant articles, set the order of the warrant and review draft motions. To follow the events leading up to our Special Town Meeting, you may view the Town Meeting Timeline which is available at this link: [2021 Special Town Meeting](#).

Following a formal Request for Proposal process, on August 17th, the Select Board approved a Purchase and Sale Agreement with Charles and Dianne Grondine for the disposition of 63 Main Street in the amount of \$425,000. A copy of the agreement is available at the following link: [Purchase and Sale Agreement](#).

At the Select Board's July 27th meeting, the board met jointly with the Parks, Grounds, and Recreation Commission to review the Friends of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail's outdoor art display, heard abutter concerns and discussed a formal process for abutters to be notified of future changes related to the Rail Trail. After discussion with the board, it was determined abutters will continue to be notified by mail of future proposed changes related to the trail in advance of the Select Board's consideration.

At that same meeting, the board heard an update on the available funding for remediation of hazardous materials at the 12 North Main Street and discussed next steps including the possible disbandment of the 12 North Main Street Task Force. The Town Manager's Office has applied for grants to assist in funding remediation at the property and will be seeking Select Board input on whether to preserve the historic building moving forward.

The Westford Cultural Council has published their annual survey which purpose is to collect community input and will assist in identifying priorities for the upcoming grant cycle. The survey is available online until August 22nd at the following link: [Westford Cultural Council Community Input Survey: 2021](#)

Westford Climate Action (WCA) members staffed a table at the August 11th Westford Farmers' Market.

Encouraging our residents to "Go Green" they provided information about the Town's residential and business aggregate electrical contract through which home and business-owners can save money and support renewable electricity. They gave away an Earth Machine composter generously donated by the Recycling Commission, and offered "test rides" in an all-electric and hybrid cars. New recycling Guides and Healthy Home checklists were also available. If you are interested in joining WCA, please visit their website: <http://westfordclimateaction.org>



Resident Mark Minnucci is organizing a town-wide litter cleanup event on Saturday, September 18th. If interested in participating, you may sign-up using the following link: [National Cleanup Day - Westford!](#)

The Select Board and I recognized Public Health Nurse Gail Johnson for receiving the Presidential Award from the Massachusetts Association of Public Health Nurses. The Presidential Award is presented to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the organization and demonstrating an overall dedication to nursing.

On July 27th, the Select Board recognized Laurie Lessard for over 22 years of service as the Administrative Assistant in the Health Department in light of her retirement effective July 23rd. I thank Laurie for her assistance through the years and extend my best wishes to her and her family for a long, healthy, happy retirement!

Please join me in congratulating our new Police Chief Mark Chambers on his recent appointment! Mark has been with our Police Department for over 22 years and has served as the town's Acting Police Chief since Chief McEnaney's retirement earlier this year.

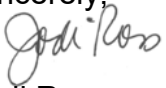
(continued on next page)

There are several openings on our local boards and committees, including: 35 Town Farm Road Task Force, Agricultural Commission, Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee, Commission on Disability, Committee to Study Ways to Increase Attendance at Town Meeting, Communications Advisory Committee, Cultural Council, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, Dog Park Task Force, Economic Development Committee (alternates), Election Officers, Healthy Westford Committee, Historical Commission, Parkerville Schoolhouse Committee, Parks, Grounds and Recreation Commission, Pedestrian Safety Committee, Permanent Town Building Committee, Recycling Commission, Senior Low Income Disabled Tax Relief Committee, Westford Scholarship and Grant Committee, and Zoning Board of Appeals. I urge you to peruse our website for information about the work of these committees; and if you have interest, please complete a Citizen's Activity form at this link: [Citizen Activity Form](#).

Would you like more detailed information on the Select Board's meetings? Click the following links to access: [Select Board Documents](#) & [Select Board Meeting Videos](#).

I hope you enjoy these last couple weeks of summer!

Sincerely,



Jodi Ross
Town Manager

August at the J.V. Fletcher Library



July 2021 – Our busiest month ever! This past July we circulated almost 46,000 items, the highest circulation in the Library's history. Thank you to all who visit the Library and make it an integral part of the Westford community.

Unless otherwise noted, the following programs are made possible by the Friends of the Library.

Mother Goose Story Time: Every Tuesday in August at 10:30 a.m. For kids ages 0 and up. Miss Ellen A. and Miss Jennifer will be outside, on stage, and socially distanced every Thursday in August at 10:30 AM. Please preregister so that we know how many to expect and for a zoom link just in case we have to move inside. Tell your friends in other towns to meet you at the library. Please register for this program through the [Library Events Calendar](#). If it rains, we will meet virtually and email you a Zoom link.

Virtual Holistic Health for Your Kids: Thu., Aug. 12 at 7 p.m. Westford Academy student and Girl Scout Troop 85009 member Niharika Chawla presents a summary of her Gold Award health program. It was featured in The Kids' League of Westford's after-school programming this past spring. Niharika will discuss how she and her team used a holistic approach to teach children good, healthy habits about nutrition, mindfulness, hygiene, and physical fitness. Register for this program through the [Library Events Calendar](#). Questions? Email sregan@westfordma.gov.

Another Family Concert with the Rockabye Beats Tues., Aug 17 at 6:30 p.m. - The only thing better than a July show with the Rockabye Beats is an August show with the Rockabye Beats. Trust us - mark your calendars for this energetic, hilarious, and very musical show. Bring a blanket and spread out on the grass in front of our stage for an outside, socially distanced view. Wear your PJs and pack some snacks and enjoy the show. Register for this program through the [Library Events Calendar](#). The rain date will be August 18 at 6:30 p.m.

YA Book Club - Prairie Lotus: Wed., Aug. 18 at 3 p.m.: Open to young adults in grades 5-12. Join us to discuss Linda Sue Park's award winning novel, *Prairie Lotus*. Copies of the book are available at the Main Desk. Refreshments will be provided. Bring a comfy chair and meet us on the back lawn. Register for this program through the [Library Events Calendar](#).

Virtual Introduction to Pronouns & Gender Diversity: Tue., Aug. 24 at 7 p.m. Join us for a discussion on gender identity and the importance of pronouns with Dr. Shannon Peters, PhD, of Boston University. Learn about sexual orientation and gender diversity terminology; how sexuality and gender are seen as on a spectrum; and why gender pronouns are becoming more prominently used in society today. Bring your questions as they'll be a Q&A afterwards. Please register for this program through the [Library Events Calendar](#). Hosted and sponsored by the Tewksbury Public Library and made available to Westford residents. Presented in collaboration with Libraries Working Towards Social Justice.

Story Time and Book Club Online Registration: Monday, September 13 at 6:30 p.m. Online registration for these programs starts Monday evening at 6:30 p.m. Please see the website for descriptions of our selection of story times. Book clubs are open to Westford residents and non-resident Friends of the J.V. Fletcher Library. Book clubs are for grades Kindergarten, 1, 2, 3, and 4 and 5 (combined) and meet once a month from 4 to 4:45 p.m. The Non-Fiction Book Club is for kids in grades 3 and 4 and meets once a month on Monday afternoon. The Art Book club is for kids in grade 3 to 5 and meets once a month on a Thursday afternoon.

Virtual Qigong Class: every Mon. from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Dvora Eisenstein leads this free recurring Qigong class on Zoom. Qigong is an ancient Chinese health care system integrating slow movements, breathing techniques, and focused intention. Qigong calms your mind, improves your balance, and enhances health. Suitable for all levels of ability and ages. Anyone may join at any time. Hosted and sponsored by the Sunderland Public Library and made available to all Westford residents. To join, use this Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/117278043>

Check out our [Museum Passes page](#) or call the Library for reservations. Unless otherwise noted, our museum passes are generously funded by the Friends of the Library. [Have you joined the Friends yet?](#)

Monday Mystery, Adult Non Fiction, Thursday Night Book Club: All of our adult book clubs welcome new members. Please visit westfordlibrary.org/events/adult-book-clubs/ for more information, reading lists, and upcoming meeting dates!

Quick Links to Our Most Popular Services!

[Book Bundles for Kids, Teens, and Adults](#)

[Programs – Adults](#)

[Programs – Kids](#)

[Programs – Young Adults](#)

If you have questions or need assistance, please call us at 978-399-2300 or send us an email at westfordlibrary@westfordma.gov.

Cameron Senior Center

The Cameron Senior Center welcomes adults ages 55+ for daily programs and services.

Mission Statement: The Council on Aging promotes physical, emotional and economic well-being of older adults in all realms of community life.

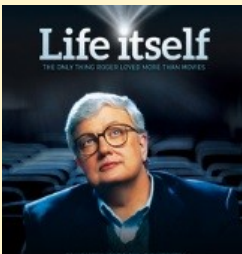
Hot Dogs and Bingo Night

Thursday, August 17th and September 9th— 4:45-6:00PM dinner and BINGO 7:00PM
Thursday night BINGO partially returns for the summer! Chef Mike is ready to whip up his famous hot dinner which includes a grilled dog and bun, chips, drink and dessert for \$3.00. Simply pay for your dinner at the front desk when you arrive. BINGO follows at 7PM.



Caregiver Movie Series at Cameron

Enjoy being with friends along and Annette Cerullo, Outreach Coordinator and Town Social Worker, Alison Christopher on Wednesday, August 25th from 1-4PM to watch a movie about the caregiver role in various circumstances and health conditions. After the movie, we will host a brief discussion of the movie's theme and participant's impressions and experiences.



August Movie Selection: LIFE ITSELF (2014)

Pulitzer Prize winning film critic Roger Ebert is one of history's most commendable social commentators and an inspiring model of life well-lived. Although his head and neck malignancy robbed Ebert of his commanding speech, the famed historian and author never lost his voice in influencing his diverse audience. Based on Ebert's bestselling memoir "Life Itself," the documentary portrays how to combat cancer with help from a network of family and friends.

Mindful Health Movement Preservation with Westford's very own Dave Crocker, Instructor

Tuesdays at 9am - Eight weeks starting September 7

Instructor: Dave Crocker from Cultivating Qi based in Westford.

Regular movement of all parts of the mind and body are needed to maintain and improve our health & well-being. Mindful movement is a mind-body activity done with in-the-moment awareness of what you are doing, and its benefits include: reduced stress, greater relaxation and improved quality of life. You will learn meditative movements that enhance your body's ability to heal itself. The slow, gentle movements and deep, abdominal breathing while maintaining an internal focus bring about a wonderful calmness to your being, a strengthening of your immune system and newfound physical-mental-spiritual balance. Class size is limited so register early at 978-692-5523. Cost for Westford Residents is \$24 for an eight-week session, and Non- Westford Residents is \$5.00 per class.



Westford Senior Center

(Continued on next page)

Cameron Senior Center

How has COVID-19 Influenced the Real Estate Market?

Tuesday, September 14, 6:30pm

The Pandemic has changed many things in our world and real estate is no exception. Come and join Kathy Cunningham, Realtor from Coldwell Banker Realty to hear about those changes and how to take advantage of them and plan if you are thinking of moving in the future. Please call to sign up at 978-692-5523.



VET 2 VET

Tuesdays, September 14 and October 12 at 11am

Are you a veteran who has questions and would like to talk to another veteran? Sign up with for a one on one appointment with retired Town Veteran Agent and COA Board Member, Terry Stader at 978-692-5523.

Fun, Celebratory Veteran's Lunch

September 22 at 12pm

Veterans and their spouses are invited to a lunch co-sponsored by the **American Legion Post 159** and **VFW Post 6539**. Please RSVP at 978 692 5523.



LIVE THEATER SHOW – “BON APPETIT, JULIA”,

Friday, September 17th at 1 PM. Delvena Theatre Company will be back with us this year for another live performance. This show is a sequel to Delvena's ever-popular *Meet Julia Child!* show. Set in the 1980's, the show will focus on insight into the beloved chef, Julia Child's life at that time. There will be audience participation and an original *The Way to Cook* program. Julia will be demonstrating her culinary skills, with real ingredients, and encouraging help from the audience. Julia being Julia! An interactive, fun show! The cast will be open for discussion regarding Julia Child, after the show.

As always, we will have a celebration with root beer floats following the show. A fun time for all! **Please call 978.692.5523 to sign up for this FREE show.**

This program is supported by a grant from the Westford Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Calling ALL Town Residents:

Do you need a ride to town meeting? Now you can Register Online!

Transportation provided to all residents who need a ride to Annual Town Meeting on Saturday, October 17th, 2021 at Abbott School.

Transportation to and from the Monday, October 18th Special Town Meeting at the Abbott school will be available via the Cameron Senior Center's Transportation Department, by way of their COA vans. If you need transportation to Town Meeting, please call 978-399-2322, or check the transportation website for online transportation request options at the following link:

<https://www.westfordma.gov/1433/Town-Meeting-Transportation>

To learn more please visit: www.westfordma.gov/coa, [www.facebook.com/Cameron Senior Center/](https://www.facebook.com/Cameron-Senior-Center/), www.youtube.com/channel/UCaNgAZb3tw8EYYQ5bEe7XXg or simply call 978-692-5523

Westford Parks & Recreation

After School with Parks & Rec's Westford Partnership for Children (WPC)

Parks & Recreation's WPC After School program for grades K-8 returns to full service starting August 31. The WPC program provides the Westford community with a safe, stimulating, and fun environment for school children during after school hours.

WPC offers each child:

- **Choice of enrichment activities**
like science exploration, sports and games, visual arts and homework help.
- **Flexible schedules that support each family's needs**
from one block on one day, to a full week of after school coverage.
- **Safe and easy transition from classroom to program**
with WPC programs located at each child's school.*
- **Experienced WPC Site Directors and staff**
all focused on safety, positive youth development, and academic enrichment and support.

The program runs Monday-Friday, from school dismissal to 5:45 p.m. with locations at the following Westford Public Schools: Abbot, Crisafulli, Day, Miller, Nabnasset, Robinson, and Stony Brook Middle School.

**The Middle School program is run at Stony Brook Middle School. WPC provides bus transportation from Blanchard to Stony Brook.*

Parks & Rec's Special After School Programs

Parks & Recreation provides additional support for parents and children with special full-day and full-week programs during school professional development days, parent conferences, and February and April school vacations. Each program is full of events that are educational, inspiring, and fun!

Learn more or register at [About WPC](#) on [westfordrec.com](#)

Parks & Recreation programs for squirts, youth, and adults include:

Speed & Agility with DJ Brock, for ages 9-22

Session 7 runs August 16-19, Session 8 runs August 23-26

Stand Up Paddleboard Yoga with Solar Flow SUP, for ages 16 and up

Classes on August 19 and on August 26

Nitehawks Fall Cross Country Track with Alex Ivanov, for grades 2-3 and 4-8

Session runs September 9-October 28

Pre-Tee Ball with Coach Tim French, for ages 3-6

Session runs September 14-October 12

CPR, AED and First Aid with Mike Votano, RN, for ages 9 and up

Classes on September 27 and on October 25

GGLeagues Summer Egaming, sessions for youth, teens, and adults

Sessions start on October 4, 5 and 6

Marcus Lewis Tennis Extension Program, for squirts, youth, and adults

Sessions run September through October and cover a range of levels.

To learn more or to register for a program,

visit [Programs](#) on [westfordrec.com](#).

Learn more about Westford Parks & Recreation at [westfordma.gov](#).

For recreation programming, visit [westfordrec.com](#).

Westford Parks & Recreation, 65 Main Street, Westford, MA 01886 | 978-692-5532



Top and Middle: "Explorations" at Robinson.
Bottom: "Chinchilla in a pot" at Parks & Rec's Special Program with Littleton's Animal Ambassadors.



CPR with Mike Votano: experienced EMT professional, ER Nurse, and Pre-Post Op Surgical Nurse.



Chasing the balls with MLTEP Tennis Coach Nammon Gross.

September 11th Remembrance

On Saturday, September 11, 2021, the town of Westford will host a remembrance event commemorating the 20th anniversary of the horrific attacks of that occurred on September 11th, 2001. Marking this important anniversary, the town will host the annual commemoration ceremony to honor the 2,977 men, women and children that lost their lives in the attacks at the World Trade Center site, the Pentagon and aboard Flight 93.

The ceremony will take place on Saturday, September 11, 2021 beginning at 9:55 a.m. EST, at the 9/11 memorial in the Public Safety Courtyard on the right side of the Town Hall, located at 55 Main Street, Westford, MA 01886.

Social distancing and face coverings are recommended.

For additional information regarding this event, please contact Ryan Cobleigh, Veterans Service Officer, at rcobleigh@westfordma.gov or by phone at 978-392-1170.

We hope you can join us for this special event.

Thank you



From the Town Moderator

Special Town Meeting is scheduled for the evening of October 18, 2021 at the Abbot School – mark your calendar and SAVE THE DATE. The Special Town Meeting is one of two Town Meetings held in Westford each year where we vote on various issues affecting our way of life. Any registered voter may attend, speak and vote. Keep your eye on the Moderator's page at the Town website <https://westfordma.gov/891/Town-Moderator> for further information on issues to be discussed.

Have you tried or wanted to attend Town Meeting in the past but found that it just doesn't work out for you? Is the timing inconvenient? The process intimidating? The language confusing? Is it too boring? Does it just take too long? WE NEED YOU to serve on the newly formed Committee to Study Ways to Increase Attendance at Town Meeting (yes, that's really the name) Westford is trying to figure out how to increase the number of people at Town Meeting voting on important Town issues that relate to our community and affect all of us. We are especially looking for people who do not regularly or have never attended Town Meeting. Sound interesting? Have something to say? Sign up here: <https://data.westfordma.gov/bc/newcaf.php>

Westford Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee Update

Give us a piece of your mind!

Please help shape our town's strategy to achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by taking the [Westford Survey on Climate Change](#)! As mentioned in our July newsletter, this survey will help our Net Zero Roadmap committee understand the barriers that prevent our community from adopting renewable and sustainable practices. Your responses will inform our Net Zero Plan, which you can learn more about here:

<https://westfordma.govDocumentCenter/View/10139/Roadmap-Q-and-A>.

Thank you for your participation and commitment to a better Westford.

Recycling Commission

The Recycling Commission held five Open Houses on Backyard Composting in June and July to promote this easy way to divert kitchen waste from the trash stream. Earth Machines were offered for sale at the discounted rate of \$25, and over 2 dozen residents purchased them. Every four families that begin composting should divert about a ton of waste from Westford's trash, and we welcome and celebrate these new composters and look forward to diverting an additional 6.25 tons from Westford's trash and the corresponding reduction in trash incineration fees.



Please visit www.westfordma.gov/recycling
for your recycling and trash questions.
Reduce! Reuse! Repurpose! Recycle!

Pet Waste and Bathing Beaches

HEALTH RISKS POSSIBLY ASSOCIATED WITH PET WASTE

Pet waste can contain bacteria and parasites, causing infections such as the following:

- **Campylobacteriosis:** A bacterial infection that causes diarrhea in humans.
- **Giardiasis:** A protozoan infection of the small intestine that can cause diarrhea, cramping, fatigue, and weight loss.
- **Salmonellosis:** Symptoms include fever, muscle aches, headache, vomiting, and diarrhea.
- **Toxocariasis:** An animal-to-human infection that is caused by roundworms found in the intestines of dogs. The parasite can cause vision loss, rash, fever, or cough, and is a particular threat to children exposed to parasite eggs in sand and soil.

WHY IS PET WASTE A CONCERN?

There are a lot of pets, producing a lot of waste, and while pet waste is not the most significant pollutant, it can contribute to pollution over time.

WHY PICK UP AFTER MY DOG? WON'T THE TIDE WASH IT AWAY?

Dog waste may pose a health threat to swimmers, wildlife, surfers, and other dogs. It can pollute the water and lead to beach closures and closure of shellfish beds.

I ONLY HAVE A SMALL DOG; IT CAN'T REALLY HARM THE WATER, CAN IT?

It can be hard to picture how a single dog depositing a small amount of waste can result in water pollution. However, studies have shown that the combined impact of all pets and wildlife within a watershed can be significant when it comes to water quality and human health.

BE AWARE

- When animal waste ends up in the water, it decomposes, using up oxygen. During summer months, low dissolved-oxygen levels harm fish and other aquatic life.
- Beaches and shellfish beds may be closed if evidence that disease-causing bacteria and viruses might be present is found on routine water testing. Pet waste can be a cause of test results that close beaches and shellfish beds.
- The majority of water pollution comes from small sources, especially at the household level.
- Many towns have "pooper scooper" ordinances that require pet owners to pick up and remove fecal matter from public property. Fines can be imposed on those caught violating these laws.

PET WASTE IS NATURAL

- However, efficient drainage systems and roads now make it easy for pet waste to reach beach waters.
- Waste left on the ground either passes through storm sewers untreated or washes directly into oceans, lakes, and streams.
- Pet waste is unpleasant and can pose health risks when left on beaches or in other recreational areas.
- To make sure your pet isn't contributing to the problem, always clean up after your pet and deposit waste in an appropriate manner.

QUICK TIPS

- Reuse old bags (e.g. grocery, sandwich, newspaper, produce, or bread bags) to pick up and contain pet waste.
- Keep a supply of bags near your dog's leash.
- Tie bags onto the leash if you don't have a pocket or pack.

DO MORE TO PROTECT THE SHORE

- Always carry a plastic bag to pick up your pet's waste.
- Do not throw pet waste in or near a storm drain; use a trash can. Pet waste can also be flushed down a toilet, but please don't flush the bag.
- Make sure to dispose of pet waste in a sealed bag, so it doesn't spill during trash collection.
- Do not flush pet or wildlife waste from your deck or dock into the water.
- Obey local leash laws and seasonal bans at beaches.



Westford Water Department

Mark Warren, Interim Superintendent

Board of Water Commissioners: Hugh C. Maguire • Titus Palmer • Chauncey Chu • Tim Hall, Alternate



DRINKING WATER PFAS6 PUBLIC EDUCATION

This material contains important information about your drinking water.

Please translate it, speak with someone who understands it or ask the contact listed below for a translation.

The Westford Water Department has not violated the drinking water regulations. A PFAS6 Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) violation occurs when the average of all monthly samples collected over a quarter exceeds the MCL. If our system had violated the PFAS6 MCL, our system would have issued a combined PUBLIC NOTICE and Public Education document.

On October 2, 2020, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) promulgated a new drinking water regulation and maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 20 nanograms per liter (ng/L) for the sum of six per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (called PFAS6). In addition, our water system proactively sampled for PFAS6 in August and October 2020 prior to the new regulations, which has been highlighted in our newsletters along with PFAS6 updates.

The Westford Water Department has found an elevated level of PFAS6 in the drinking water from the July sample at the Forge Village Water Treatment Plant (WTP) during routine monitoring. Even though the level detected in July is above the MCL, a PFAS6 MCL violation has not occurred, as violations are based on three months of testing. We are providing you with these materials to make you aware of the elevated levels so you can make informed decisions about your drinking water while we continue to monitor the water supply. See all of our latest results in the tables below.

PFAS6 Results for Forge Village Water Treatment Plant

Quarterly Compliance Period	Monitoring Period	PFAS6 Result (ng/L)	*Quarterly Average (ng/L)	PFAS6 MCL (ng/L)
Quarter 2, 2021	April	12.7	15	20
	May	13.5		
	June	19.5		
Quarter 3, 2021	July	20.6	---	20
	August	---		
	September	---		

* Quarterly averages are calculated by adding the three-monthly sample results from within the quarter and dividing by three. If any sample result would cause the quarterly average to exceed the MCL, the PFAS6 MCL has been violated. All results are in ng/L (ppt).

PFAS6 Results for Nutting Road Water Treatment Plant

Quarterly Compliance Period	Monitoring Period	PFAS6 Result (ng/L)	*Quarterly Average (ng/L)	PFAS6 MCL (ng/L)
Quarter 2, 2021	April	14.2	16	20
	May	17.4		
	June	16.1		
Quarter 3, 2021	July	17.8	---	20
	August	---		
	September	---		

* Quarterly averages are calculated by adding the three-monthly sample results from within the quarter and dividing by three. If any sample result would cause the quarterly average to exceed the MCL, the PFAS6 MCL has been violated. All results are in ng/L (ppt).

(continued on next page)

Westford Water Department (Continued)

Some people who drink water containing PFAS6 in excess of the MCL may experience certain adverse effects. These could include effects on the liver, blood, immune system, thyroid, and fetal development. These PFAS6 may also elevate the risk of certain cancers. For more information on PFAS, see the links below.

What is PFAS6?

PFAS6 includes perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS), perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA) and perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA). PFAS are man-made chemicals that have been used in the manufacturing of certain fire-fighting foams, moisture and stain resistant products, and other industrial processes. For more information see the weblinks listed below.

What should I do?

For Consumers in a sensitive subgroup

(pregnant or nursing women, infants and people diagnosed by their health care provider to have a compromised immune system)

- **Consumers in a sensitive subgroup (pregnant or nursing women, infants and people diagnosed by their health care provider to have a compromised immune system) are advised not to consume, drink, or cook with water when the level of PFAS6 is above 20 ng/L.**
- **Consumers in sensitive subgroups** are advised to use bottled water for drinking and cooking of foods that absorb water (like pasta).
- **For infant formula**, use bottled water or use formula that does not require adding water.
- **Bottled water should only be used if it has been tested.** The Massachusetts Department of Public Health requires companies licensed to sell or distribute bottled water or carbonated non-alcoholic beverages to test for PFAS. See <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/water-quality-standards-for-bottled-water-in-massachusetts#list-of-bottlers->

For all other consumers not in a sensitive subgroup

- **If you are not in a sensitive subgroup**, you may continue to consume the water because the 20 ng/L value is applicable to a lifetime consuming the water and shorter duration exposures present less risk.
- **If you have specific health concerns regarding your past exposure**, you should see the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's link below and consult a health professional, such as your doctor.

Steps you can take to reduce your intake - Consider taking the following steps while actions are being implemented to address this issue:

- **For older children and adults (not in a sensitive subgroup)**, the 20 ng/L value is applicable to a lifetime of consuming the water. For these groups, shorter duration exposures present less risk. However, if you are concerned about your exposure while steps are being taken to assess and lower the PFAS6 concentration in the drinking water, use of bottled water will reduce your exposure.
- **Home water treatment systems** that are certified to remove PFAS by an independent testing group such as NSF, UL, or the Water Quality Association may be effective in treating the water. These may include point of entry systems, which treat all the water entering a home, or point of use devices, which treat water where it is used, such as at a faucet. For information on selecting home treatment devices that are effective in treating the water for PFAS6 see weblinks below.
- **In most situations, the water can be safely used for washing foods, brushing teeth, bathing, and showering.**

Please note: Boiling the water will not destroy PFAS6 and will somewhat increase its level due to evaporation of some of the water.

(continued on next page)

Westford Water Department (Continued)

What is being done?

The Westford Water Department has taken the following proactive measures:

- We have sampled each of our 9 groundwater source wells/wellfields in July.
- The Country Road 2 well showed elevated PFAS6 levels, and we are currently investigating the source of PFAS6 contamination.
- We immediately removed the Country Road 2 well (which is one of five wells that supplies our Forge Village WTP) from service to reduce the PFAS6 levels in the finished water.
- We will continue monthly monitoring to gauge reduction of PFAS6 levels, and update our website with these results (www.westfordma.gov/water).
- We are investigating treatment options to remove PFAS6 should it become necessary.

Where can I get more information?

For more information, please contact Interim Superintendent Mark Warren at 978-399-2457 or at mwarren@westfordma.gov. See also the weblinks listed below.

- [MassDEP Fact Sheet - Questions and Answers for Consumers](https://www.mass.gov/media/1854351) (<https://www.mass.gov/media/1854351>)
- [MassDEP Fact Sheet - Home Water Treatment Devices - Point of Entry and Point of Use Drinking Water Treatment](https://www.mass.gov/service-details/home-water-treatment-devices-point-of-entry-and-point-of-use-drinking-water) (<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/home-water-treatment-devices-point-of-entry-and-point-of-use-drinking-water>)
- [CDC ATSDR Information on PFAS for consumers and health professionals](https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/index.html) (<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/index.html>)
- [Massachusetts Department of Public Health information about PFAS in Drinking Water -](https://www.mass.gov/service-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas-in-drinking-water) (<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas-in-drinking-water>)

This public education material is being sent to you by:

Westford Water Department. PWS ID#: 3330000 Date distributed: 8/19/2021

We will provide public notice updates on our website (www.westfordma.gov/water) every three months until the situation has been resolved.

Please share this information with other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses).

Rev. 2021-07